

ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-13, 15-19, 21-24, and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Lobiondo, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15 that the Applicants have added the word, “visually” as supported by the specification on page 6, line 8 and described in many ways throughout the detailed description. Since Livingston and Lobiondo fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

The Examiner states that : “Livingston does not disclose expressly that said central processing unit specifies a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations.” [February 2006 Office Action, page 5]. The Examiner also states that Lobiondo “discloses specifying a balanced media exit pattern ..that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations (col. 4, lines 16-25 and lines 30-34 of Lobiondo).”

The present invention describes and claims a printing system that includes an input source and two output destinations as well as a user interface and central processing unit as described in the detailed description and claimed. The central processing unit described and claimed is “configured to determine a pattern of media feeds for each output set of a print job to achieve a desired appearance characteristic of sheets for the output set...” (Present invention, claim 1 and page 6, lines 1-5 and pages 11, lines 5-8 and 11-12 as well as that shown in Figures 3A and 3E (516)). Lobiondo does something different and basically unrelated. Lobiondo does not use the term "balanced" to achieve a “desired appearance characteristic of sheets for the output set”, which concerns the aesthetically balanced appearance of the print job, but to "load balance" a print job so part of it

goes to a number of different printers and can therefore complete sooner. Lobiondo would not even create a print job in a single output bin. Lobiondo requires the operator to re-assemble the print job manually. The combination of Livingston and Lobiondo could not teach the present invention.

The present invention actually allows a user/operator/job-requestor to create a job output which has an aesthetically balanced appearance as described throughout the description, for example on page 16, lines 5-20. Livingston cannot automatically create such a job that is aesthetically balanced. Livingston never attempts to provide visual clues to the job-requestor to show how the overall job will appear and Lobiondo adds nothing to teach how this would be done.

Merely substituting the solution of Lobiondo, as stated in the rejection, does not provide the missing limitation found in Livingston as discussed above. In the absence of such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection on this basis is in error and request that it be withdrawn.

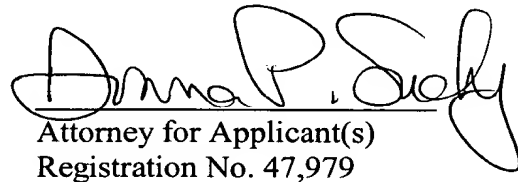
Claims 5, 11, 14, 20, 25 and 28-31 are also rejected as being obvious and as unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo and in further view of Mastie and Farrell. In response, Applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to independent claim 1, and respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for at least these reasons.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Mastie or Farrell, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15. Since Livingston and Mastie or Farrell fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

Finally, with respect to the combination of Livingston in view of Lobiondo, Mastie, and Farrell in all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that neither provides sufficient objective motivation, for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, to modify Livingston in the manner attempted.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-31 are allowable in their present form, and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.